

THE PERFIN OF THE SALVATION ARMY

Perfin Details by Dave Hill: Historical Notes by Rosemary Smith

The Salvation Army is a Christian organisation with a semi-military organisational structure. Today, the S.A. works in more than 85 countries, operating an effective service to provide help for the poor and needy.

The organisation developed in 1865 from the work of William Booth, a Methodist minister, in the poorer parts of London's East End, where it was first known as *The Christian Mission* until it changed its name to *The Salvation Army* in 1878. Within a decade the group had spread outside Britain and also became well established in North America.

The Salvation Army numbers many musicians in its ranks, and music is widely used as a way to spread the gospel.

The earliest perfin is postmarked 13 March 1882 - 'S.A' (**S0070.01**) – and is known used on a cover with the "SA" crest on the reverse. Confirmation of this is sought. It is uncommon. In the Gault Catalogue there are no known issues or dates of use. **Please report if you have this perfin.**

There are a number of S.A. dies, some may be part of multidiets:-

S0080.01 is known used from 1895 to 1905 with London EC postmarks but has not been confirmed as used by the Salvation Army.

S0080.0a is known used from 1885 with late usage on the 1940 Centenary stamps. This has been identified as used by both SA International HQ in London and the HQ for Women's Work at Hackney in East London.

S0080.01b is known used from 1890 to 1905 at International HQ, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4.

S0080.01c is a rare die and has not been seen on cover. In Gault it is noted as used c1905 and on the KEVII ½d. It has a 'displaced' pin in the 'A'.

S0080.02 is known used from 1905 to 1939 by The International HQ in Queen Victoria Street, London EC4.

S0080.02a known used from 1905 to 1912 but has not been proved used by The Salvation Army.

S0090.01m is a monogram and was used by The Salvationist Publishing & Supplies Limited between 1895 and 1957. First from Clerkenwell until October 1886, then at Kentish Town until 1911 and finally at Kings Cross until 1957.

S0110.01M (SA/A) was used between 1945 and 1975 by the Salvation Army Assurance Society Limited from Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

S5590.01m is another monogram used by The Salvation Army, this time at their International HQ in Queen Victoria Street from 1889 to 1905. These dates are contemporary with the 'SA' monogram. This die is in the Sloper machine records as m/c No.7041 (cl889).

If you have any identifying covers for any of these dies, please report to Roy, Dave or Rosemary.

